

May 31, 1968

Mr. Robert D. Love
Love Box Company, Inc.
Box 546
Wichita, Kansas 67201

Dear Bob:

Charles Koch sent me a copy of the Wichita newspaper ad,
"Let's Get Out of Vietnam Now."

This is one of those situations where we get caught between
the John Birch Society and the Freedom School, and you know
how easy it would be for me to understand, even though at
this point I disagree with the viewpoint expressed in this
ad; however, I am a vital part of the John Birch Society as
I am of the Freedom School, and I would not feel it proper
for me to put my name on any public display ad which would
be diametrically opposed to either one of their positions.
As we have so frequently agreed between us, there seems to
be room for both, and I don't have nearly the conflict that
either Bob Welch or Bob LeFevre have in regard to the matter.

The Vietnam planned campaign that Welch has been promoting,
however, has produced nearly a million signatures on these
petitions. I don't think it should be sabotaged now.

I seriously think you should consider resigning from the
Council to eliminate this kind of conflict, and to avoid
any precipitous action, it might be advisable for you to
skip the Chicago Council meeting.

As long as I had written to Charles in response to his note
and had mentioned your name in his letter, I felt bound to
send you a copy which is enclosed.

Cordially yours,

Jim. J. Grede

WJG:dc

enc.

c - Robert Welch, Laurence L. Hunter, W. L. Binson, Jr., Robert L. Montgomery,
Robert J. Stoddard.

May 31, 1968

Mr. Charles Koch
Koch Engineering Company, Inc.
121 West Douglas Avenue
Wichita, Kansas 67202

Dear Charles:

Your Wichita ad reprint and your note were received just as I was leaving to attend a meeting of the National Council of YMCA's there, incidentally, I had a visit with the YMCA Secretary from Wichita.

I have read the ad very carefully and I'm sure that you gave this a lot of consideration before arriving at the conclusions and the recommendations. The Communists have us in a box where we are damned if we do and damned if we don't.

The real problem it seems to me is that the Communists seem to control both sides of the war. Our government is aiding the Communist countries who are supplying all the sinews of war to North Vietnam, and at the same time refusing to really put up a fight with victory as the objective.

As tragic as the situation is in Vietnam, the real tragedy is in the struggle for control of our government. To withdraw will not change that. To break up this situation, the John Birch Society has been circulating petitions urging our Congress to stop giving aid to our Communist enemies, who really constitute the backbone of the resistance in North Vietnam. If we could be successful in this, the war would end rather quickly with a victory and defeat of the Communists over there as well as at home.

A quick victory is possible, it seems to me, if our government wants to win. If we follow your advice at this time and just pull out, then it seems to me we have lost the battle at home and in Vietnam. This would cause more damage and slaughter of innocent persons than even the war does, and with continuing Communist cruelty; whereas, if we make the sacrifice to win the war, the slaughter and damage would be considerably less and would end.

May 31, 1968

Mr. Charles Koch
Wichita, Kansas 67202

These are my views. I'm not certain what Bob Welch would think of my reasoning, but he certainly is putting on a drive for those petitions to persuade Congress to withhold aid to our Communist enemies so that we can weaken North Vietnam and get the war over, with a minimum of sacrifice and in the shortest time.

You have resigned from the Society, but it seems too bad that Bob Love, who is on the Council, and the others in your group, who may be members of the Society and known as such, would lend their names to an ad which is so contrary to present John Birch Society program. There is no reason, of course, why they cannot disagree with the policy, but on a matter as important as this, it seems they place themselves in kind of an untenable position by expressing their disagreement in such a public display ad.

If you and Bob and these others, whoever they may be, wish to publicly and vigorously launch a contrary program or viewpoint, they should resign from the Society and push their own program, but this ad is almost sabotage from within the Society. At least Bob who, as a member of the Council and the public knows, speaks officially for the Society should resign from the Council and thereby cancel this authority to speak for the Society.

Since I have referred to Bob Love in my letter, I am sending him a copy.

Cordially yours,

Wm. J. Grade

WJG:dc

cc - Mr. Robert D. Love

01-11-1968

LOVE BOOK COMPANY, INC.
WICHITA, KANSAS

RECEIVED
JUN 11 1968

June 5, 1968

Mr. Robert Welton
Union League Club
65 West Jackson Boulevard
Chicago, Illinois

Bob, due to apparently major differences of opinion on the Vietnam war and the stand I have taken and shall continue to take, it seems advisable that I resign from the Council of the John Birch Society and from the membership as well.

Please accept this letter as my request to you and hope the many facets of the pursuit of freedom will be successful, for the sake of all of us.

Regards,



Robert D. Love

CC: Mr. William J. Grede

From the desk of-

CHARLES G. KOCH

MAY 21 1968

Dear Bill:

Enclosed is a copy of an educational ad that Bob Love and I sponsored in the Wichita Sunday paper. I have yet to hear a person disagree on the points that are made and we have had quite a bit of feedback.

I am sending the copy for your own interest, but if you or someone else you know would care to do the same in a Milwaukee paper, you certainly have our permission to use this ad.

Charles

Woe

June 5, 1968

Mr. Robert Weleh
Union League Club
65 West Jackson Boulevard
Chicago, Illinois

Bob, due to apparently major differences of opinion on the Vietnam war and the stand I have taken and shall continue to take, it seems advisable that I resign from the Council of the John Birch Society and from the membership as well.

Please accept this letter as my request to you, and I hope the many facets of the pursuit of freedom will be successful, for the sake of all of us.

Regards,

Robert D. Love

CC: Mr. William J. Grede

Elm Grove.

Recd 4/7/68

ROBERT WELCH
Belmont, Massachusetts 02178

June 12, 1968

JUN 14 1968

Mr. Robert D. Love
Box 546
Wichita, Kansas

Dear Bob:

Thanks for your letter of June 5, which reached me at the Union League Club in Chicago. There was no opportunity for consideration there, so I delayed until my return to Belmont.

The recent full-page advertisement in the Wichita paper, demanding that the United States simply pull out of Vietnam, unconditionally and at once, was like a public campaign against the Society's position which is officially on record. The public and our members take for granted that you as a member of our COUNCIL are automatically authorized to and do speak and have regularly spoken for and on behalf of the Society. This, as you know, is a prerogative which we have carefully guarded.

Therefore, the advertisement referred to above not only proclaimed publicly a position, with regard to our nation's present responsibilities, which is diametrically opposed to the position of the Society -- and, so far as I know, of every other member of our COUNCIL except yourself -- but could certainly be construed as organized opposition. We appreciate, therefore, that to avoid an untenable position it will be better for you to be free to proclaim your own views without any embarrassment to either the Society or yourself.

We are, therefore, accepting your resignation from our COUNCIL and from the Society. To comply with my obligation to the COUNCIL, a photostatic copy of your understanding letter of resignation and of this acceptance will be mailed to each member. There will be gradual changes in our letterheads and brochures, as new printings are ordered, but we shall make no announcement unless you wish us to do so.

We will continue our efforts and wish you well in whatever you may do that helps the anti-Communist cause.

Sincerely,

Bob

Robert Welch

RW:jm

WYMAN-GORDON COMPANY

WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS 01601

ROBERT W. STODDARD
PRESIDENT

JUN 26 1968

June 18, 1968

Mr. Robert Love
President
Love Box Company
Wichita, Kansas 67201

Dear Bob:

I was sorry to receive copy of your letter to Bob Welch and his reply, but, of course, I understand the reasons for your feeling. "Many of us with the same basic goals can have different ideas as to methods. It is perfectly possible for individual members to disagree on details without jeopardizing the efforts of the Society, but I agree that a member of the Council, whether he actually does or not, is assumed by outsiders to speak for the Society and must, therefore, agree with basic policies and important programs."

The whole Vietnam problem is a distressing one, but we can't go back and start over. We have to begin from where we are now, and I cannot bring myself to feel that your course is the best one long range.

However, our interest is in preventing a Communist take over and I don't care how this is done as long as we succeed. I hope we can continue to count on your support and help in this basic cause which so mutually concerns us. I also hope there will be other occasions when our paths may cross.

Best personal regards.

RWS:bf

cc: Mr. William Grede /

136

24
JUN 21 1968

A. B. CHANCE CO.

210 NORTH ALLEN STREET
CENTRALIA, MISSOURI

EXECUTIVE
OFFICES

June 19, 1968

Mr. Robert D. Love, President
Love Box Company, Inc.
Wichita, Kansas

Bob, I received your newspaper ad and have read it carefully. This letter is in response to my phone call to you to find out what it is all about. I also called Bill Grede for the same purpose.

As I told you on the phone, Bob, I not only believe we must stay in Vietnam and win but that we should have a declared war and go all out to win it as quickly as possible. Then, maybe the war controls can be lifted. As we are now doing we have crisis upon crisis and control upon control and never will we lift the emergency measures. I say this in spite of the fact that to win the war is only half of it. We must win the peace, and to do that we must make changes in Washington.

On the other hand, we can not win the peace until we have won the war. The odds we will or can do both is strongly against us, but the odds are even greater if we get out of Vietnam without a victory. We are in Vietnam because we did not do the job in Korea and we will be right back in another war until we win it or lose our free country. If I had my way we would not have been in Korea or Vietnam, but we are in it... so let's win it. I would, however, have been in Cuba before now.

page 2
Mr. Robert Love
June 19, 1968

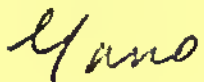
Bob, I've just returned from a trip around the world. My first trip was 41 years ago. These trips have taken me to 47 countries and I can report to you that the world has changed its views about the Government of the United States. Most of them like "we the people", but think our Government is lousy. They have nothing but utter disrespect for our foreign policy. We are a paper tiger to them can't lick a flea. To get out of Vietnam without a complete victory would prove it to them and to us also.

I sincerely believe the Communists want us to either continue as we have or get out for the time being. We tried that in Korea. We went into the conference room with white flags and we have no peace. It's time we stop running our foreign relations to please the Communists. Wars are an integral part of this whole Communist Conspiracy, and to run from them only causes them to pursue us.

Let's not give the mass media an opportunity to make a story out of this separation.

I hope to go to Topeka, Saturday, and if I do...I will try and see you.

Best regards to you and your good wife.

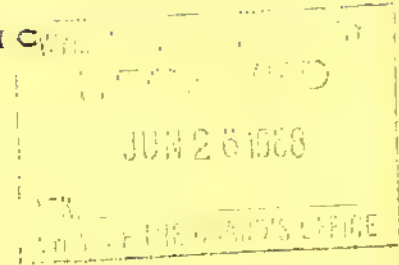
A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "F. Gano".

F. Gano Chance

LOVE BOX COMPANY, INC.
WICHITA, KANSAS

ROBERT D. LOVE
PRESIDENT

June 20, 1968



Mr. Robert W. Stoddard
Wyman-Gordon Company
Worcester, Massachusetts 01601

1968

Bob, your kind letter of June 18th is received and most welcome. I am well aware of the problems created in any organization when someone speaks out of policy, especially in an organization such as the John Birch Society. I, therefore, understand the necessity for my resignation, and I hope, by it all, more and more pressure can be put on the administration in Washington to get the problem settled. Not claiming to be in possession of all the truth, I would like for you to sometime tell me what we will do if we win in Viet Nam. Dr. Franz Pick, the famed economist of New York City, says we will spend 100 Billion Dollars to rebuild Viet Nam, if we win. We cannot afford what we are now doing in the way of war, and I can hear the liberals scream for the money to rebuild Viet Nam after the war, no matter how it ends. We have won each war we have been in, except Korea and Viet Nam, and we are going broke trying to finance them. You and I are in a comfortable situation and could probably survive almost any financial crisis, but I do not think this is the case with the bulk of the people in this country. If we think we have seen riots based on race, wait until we couple race riots with welfare riots. As Dr. Mises says, "I hope I am not alive when it happens."

You are quite right, ".....we can't go back and start over (in Viet Nam)." It is obvious we are like a ship-wrecked sailor, and we cannot say we wish we had not been on the ship. That is not good enough. We are now in a life-boat and we had better get away from where we are, going to a position of

If liberty is to be saved, it will not be by doubters, men of science, or the materialists: it will be by religious convictions; by the faith of the individuals who believe that God wills men to be free. Henri Frederick Amiel

Mr. Stoddard - Page #2

strength for the impending financial situation, which is nothing more than uninformed and unrestrained political activity. For two years I have agonized over this course, and the reaction to the ad has been quite good. This course is the best one long-range, because, if we do not take it, we'll adapt communism philosophically and operationally without even knowing it. Wage and price controls are right around the corner, and the next tax increase is already passed.

Each of us looks at the problem and says, "Well, it will not happen in my lifetime, so I'll do whatever is best not to disturb my own life too much." I am interested in preventing a Communist takeover, but this will not be done by getting ourselves into the position of adapting the tactics of communism in our financial and economic practices. You are a good student of history and understand that we shall be ruled by the iron hand of fiscal sanity, or chaos will result.

You can certainly always count on my support, and my activity will not diminish in the slightest. It is simply that each man has a value scale to implement, and, sad to say, organizations sometimes cloud the issues rather than clarify them. I am certain our efforts here will parallel those of the John Birch Society in applying pressure where it should be applied, as I have been unable to see any difference in the goals.

With best personal regards,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be "R. B. Pro" or similar, written in a cursive style.

July 17, 1968

Mr. Robert Welch
The John Birch Society
Belmont, Massachusetts 02178

Dear Bob:

Enclosed is a proposed draft of a letter to Dr. Phillips. In explanation, I think first that there should be a denial that his resignation was requested and, furthermore, I would not indicate that the advertisement brought matters to a head, which would indicate a long series of disagreements. After all, we called Bob's untenable position to his attention. It's true I suggested that he might wish to resign, but his action was a voluntary act on his part, and I think it is unnecessary to say that the Council did or did not unanimously agree.

I do think that you ought to say something in defense of your position on Vietnam. I'm not sure I've said it correctly, but a brief paragraph in this regard might be helpful.

For what it is worth, I send you this draft, and I'm sure you will rewrite it in your own special way to suit this occasion.

Cordially,

Wm. J. Grede

WJG:dc

enc.

Dear Dr. Phillips:

When the inconsistency of his position as a Council member was called to Mr. Love's attention by one of our Council members, without any request from me or anyone else that he resign, Mr. Love voluntarily resigned from the Council and the Society.

In response to his letter of resignation, one of our members put it this way, "Many of us with the same basic goals can have different ideas as to methods. It is perfectly possible for individual members to disagree on details without jeopardizing the efforts of the Society, but I agree that a member of the Council, whether he actually does or not, is assumed by outsiders to speak for the Society and must, therefore, agree with basic policies and important programs."

To us it seems that the real struggle is not in Vietnam but with our government in Washington, and if their present intentions are as subversive as we think they are, withdrawing from Vietnam now would in the first place be a very costly procedure and would encourage similar action in other parts of the world. To save our national solvency, the cheapest thing is to move in quickly and win the war. The proponents of withdrawal are assuming that the government in Washington does not wish our government to become insolvent and that if they withdrew, they would not re-engage. I'm sorry, we don't have that much confidence in our government, and so we advocate that they proceed with their avowed purpose, to stop the North Vietnamese by winning the war quickly.

We are not asking you as a member of the Society to necessarily agree with us. This is our reasoned conclusion. But if we launch a program similar to our petition program, which becomes nationwide, we would hope that those in an official position in the Society would at least not oppose the program. At no time would you be forced to defend the Society, if you disagreed.

We would hope that you will reconsider and reinstate your membership, but if not, we still appreciate the support you have given the Society in the past, and we hope that your efforts in the anti-Communist movement will continue.

Sincerely yours,

JOSEPH C. PHILLIPS, O. D.

7050 EAST LINCOLN
WICHITA, KANSAS 67207

July 10, 1968

Mr. Robert Welch
The John Birch Society
Belmont 78, Maes.

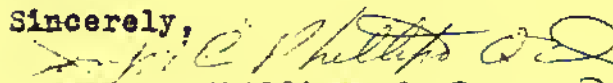
Dear Mr. Welch:

It is with regret that I have learned of your request for the resignation of Mr. Robert D. Love from the national council of the John Birch Society.

I believed, because of your own repeated statements in the bulletin, that the policy of the society was that while we have differences of opinion with other conservative groups, publications and individuals, we none the less supported them in our common cause. For this reason alone I do not understand your action. I cannot see any great difference between the society's position of win in Viet Nam and get out, and Mr. Love's position of getting out now, before we completely spend our country into bankruptcy and collectivism, while defending a South Vietnamese government that is dedicated neither to private enterprise nor individual liberty. The end result is essentially the same, except that in one case our national solvency might be preserved. Since you have repeatedly said we are paying the bill for both sides, wouldn't it make better sense to get out right now and stop the farce of perpetual war for perpetual peace?

All Americans owe you a debt of gratitude for building the John Birch Society. The society has been a monument to the principal that individualistic, strong willed, hard headed conservatives can work together. Will it continue to be? I hope so, but I am afraid not. Should the remaining members of the national council fail to convince you to rescind your request for Mr. Love's resignation, then I think there has been a serious slip in the rationale that has governed the society. I have never been afraid of anything the leaders of the society might say or do, because I knew it would be a reasoned, logical position. Now I am greatly concerned with what might be said or done next. Because I do not care to be put into a situation where I would be forced to defend an illogical, or unreasoned position, I here request that my name and that of my wife, (Mary Ellen Phillips), be removed from the membership rolls of the John Birch Society.

Sincerely,


Joseph C. Phillips, O. D.

July 13, 1968

Joseph C. Phillips, O. D.
7050 East Lincoln
Wichita, Kansas 67207

Dear Dr. Phillips:

Our acceptance of Mr. Love's resignation from our COUNCIL and from The John Birch Society itself was unanimously approved by the five members of our Executive Committee. We then sent copies of the letter of resignation and of our letter of acceptance to all other members of our COUNCIL. And we have reason to believe that the reaction was practically the same.

For unfortunately, Dr. Phillips, the situation is not so clearcut as it seemed to you. In the full-page advertisement Mr. Love, well known to be a member of our COUNCIL, and thereby authorized to speak officially for the Society, took a position with which every other member of our COUNCIL strongly disagreed. This was certainly embarrassing to us, and probably to Mr. Love. So it was this advertisement which brought matters to a head. But actually this was merely the culmination in a long series of unhappy relations between Mr. Love and not only the management of the Society but a preponderant majority of our members in the Wichita area as well.

We do not like to be voicing criticisms of other Conservatives if we can avoid it. We have preferred and still prefer not to go into any of these other disagreements at all. So we shall have to leave the decision concerning your resignation from the Society entirely up to Mrs. Phillips and yourself. We hope you will reconsider and stay with us, of course. But if not, we still appreciate the support you have given the Society in the past. And we send our earnest thanks and kind regards to you both.

Sincerely,

RW:jm

Robert Welch

air-mail
NOV 7 - 1968

ROBERT WELCH
Belmont, Massachusetts 02178

November 4, 1968

Mr. William J. Grede
c/o Grede Foundries, Inc.
1320 South First Street
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53204

Dear Bill:

Enclosed is a carbon copy of a letter I have just written to Charles Koch, but which has not yet been mailed.

It would be far better, of course, if you were willing and could spare the time to take the original of this letter with you, see Charles and read it to him or with him, and then urge upon him -- if necessary -- acceptance of our invitation.

But there may be any number of reasons why you would prefer not to do this, or why it is not practicable within the period immediately after the elections when it would seem to me best to issue this invitation. In that case, therefore, I should at least like to have the benefit of your advice before I send the letter. So if you could call me about it, perhaps Wednesday or Thursday of this week, the help certainly would be appreciated.

Here's hoping that you had a very successful, and enjoyable, visit to California. But we really did miss you at the meeting of the Executive Committee.

As always, my kindest regards.

Sincerely,

Bob

Robert Welch

RW:ca

November 4, 1968

Mr. Charles G. Koch
321 West Douglas
Wichita 2, Kansas

Dear Charles:

Ever since receiving your resignation from the Society, I have wanted to write you a ten-page letter. But I knew it would take a hundred pages to cover the ground properly. And this I did not have time to write, nor you to read. So I am going to swing all the way in the opposite direction, and try to put the points I want to make in three pages. Which means that most of the background, and all of the documentation, will have to be omitted.

(1) Your primary concern in Vietnam, the same as ours, is its effect on what happens here at home. But you have no slightest chance, by even a hundred full-page newspaper advertisements, of getting our government to withdraw its troops from this phony war, unless and until such withdrawal fits into the comprehensive strategy of the top conspiratorial oligarchy, whom we call the Insiders. And we ourselves would have just as little chance of getting our government to take the wraps off our military forces, use what weapons are necessary, go ahead and win the war, and bring our boys home -- unless and until the Insiders are ready for any such development.

Being realists -- as you should be -- we have not wasted our firing power on any such effort. Instead, we have made an attack on the one feature of our Vietnam policy which the American people could readily see consisted of outright treason; on which they would feel very strongly; and where our exposure of the facts, therefore, could have considerable direct impact on the situation here at home. This was the policy of continuous and massive aid by our government to the very enemies who were killing our boys in Vietnam. And the total of two million signatures which our petition drive will reach in 1969 is going to give a lot of backing to those still loyal people within our government who are trying to counteract the treason at work.

(2) This difference of opinion was not the real reason, of course, for your resignation from the Society and withdrawal of your advertising from

November 4, 1968

American Opinion. You took this step, we are aware, ²⁰⁰⁸ because of your sense of loyalty to Bob Love. We believe that feeling on your part to have been ^{it seemed that} quite praiseworthy, but entirely mistaken. In fact, by the spring of 1966, the very subtle, but continuous and unmistakable, efforts of Bob Love to damage the Society, and to create dissension and trouble within our COUNCIL, had gone on so long and reached so far as to prompt me to ask your father, in confidence, this question: "How sure are you that Bob Love is really on our side?"

Your father, obviously surprised, replied that Bob Love was a very religious man in whom he -- your father -- thought that we should have full confidence. To which I answered: "Good. I just wanted to know how you felt. And this gives me the reassurance that I needed." Contrary to any exaggerated rumors you may have heard otherwise, Charles, this is all that was said; and this conversation was the only one I ever had with your father on this subject. But, although Bob's undermining activities were very cleverly conducted, and not of the kind that would readily have come to the attention of your father, this question on my part obviously stayed in his mind, and set him thinking, so that eventually he reported its purport somewhat more bluntly to yourself.

(3) I do not think that Bob Love is or ever has been a Communist. I do think that he belongs to the lower fringes of what we call the Insiders; and that he sought to use his ability and opportunity to hold back, and make trouble for, The John Birch Society, as a means of climbing higher within those circles. To what extent your father was gradually coming to surmise the same thing, I do not know. But practically the last words he ever said to me, which he certainly pronounced with more than superficial significance when I was in Wichita in September, 1967, were: "I don't care what they say to me, Bob, I'm going to be at your New York dinner in December." And he knew and I knew that I planned to have a further and longer conversation with him on this subject at that time. Unfortunately, the terrible tragedy of his loss intervened.

(4) The above leaves unsaid about ninety-five percent of what should go into this letter. But after the hundred pages it would all come out with the same conclusion. You belong with us in this fight, Charles, and we need you. The John Birch Society is not perfect, and certainly my leadership has many shortcomings. But we have made enough progress for our enemies to feel -- and to have said, as far back as three years ago -- that "stamping out The John Birch Society was a matter of life and death to the Communist Party."

Mr. Charles G. Koch

- 3 -

November 1, 1968

And despite every weapon of propaganda, of massive attack, and of vicious subversion, which they could turn against us, we are not only stronger today than ever before; but we have done and are doing far more to inform the American people about the menace of Communism, and to arouse a strong enough public opinion to slow down, then stop, and finally rout this Conspiracy, than all other anti-Communist groups in America put together.

Not knowing how much of our material, if any, you have been reading in recent months, I am enclosing just two items: A Cross Section Of The Truth, and the current November Bulletin. It has taken twenty years of study to produce the first of these, Charles; and ten years of work and sacrifice on the part of the members of the Society to make the second one possible. And I hope you may be willing to read both, fully and thoughtfully, if you have not already done so.

(5) For the occasion of my writing this letter at the present time is our forthcoming Tenth Anniversary Dinner, in Indianapolis on December 7. In anticipation of that event, we are hereby repeating, in this more formal and written manner, and with the unanimous endorsement of our Executive Committee, our most cordial invitation for you to become a member of our COUNCIL. It is a distinguished body, as you know. And as we begin our second decade of massive educational work on behalf of "less government and more responsibility," we should certainly like to have you take your father's place in the leadership group of this now great nationwide organization which he helped to found.

We are looking forward hopefully to a favorable reply, and to the pleasure of having you on the dais with us at our birthday dinner. In the meantime, I send you, as always, my kindest regards.

Sincerely,

RW:ca

Robert Welch